

# Tornado Safety

**TORNADO!** Missouri set a modern day record in 2003 with **84 tornadoes** in the state. The previous record had been 79 tornadoes in 1973. Those 84 tornadoes also killed 19 people. We can't stop tornadoes, but by following **Tornado Safety Rules**, lives can be saved and injuries prevented.

**Tornado Watch:** This means that conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorm and tornado development. Keep alert by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, or the commercial media for the latest weather information.

**Tornado Warning:** This means a tornado has been sighted or a severe thunderstorm with tornado potential has been indicated by radar. People in the path of the storm should take immediate life saving action.

**In schools, hospitals, factories, shopping centers and other public places:** Move to designated shelter areas. Interior hallways on the lowest level are best. Stay away from windows and out of auditoriums, gymnasiums, or structures with large free span roofs.

**In Vehicles:** Do not try to outrun a tornado. Seek shelter in a substantial building. Abandon your vehicle if necessary and hide in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head.

## Tornado Myths

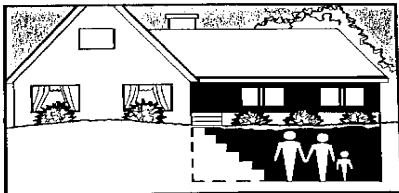
**Myth:** Areas near rivers, lakes and mountains are safe from tornadoes.

**Fact:** No place is safe from tornadoes. They can cross rivers, travel up mountains, and roar through valleys

**Myth:** Low pressure with a tornado causes buildings to "explode" as the tornado passes overhead.

**Fact:** Violent winds and debris slamming into buildings cause most structural damage.

**Myth:** Windows should be opened before a tornado to equalize pressure and minimize damage.



### With Basement

- Basement is the safest place
- Avoid windows and chimneys
- Hide under furniture or stairwells
- Protect your head



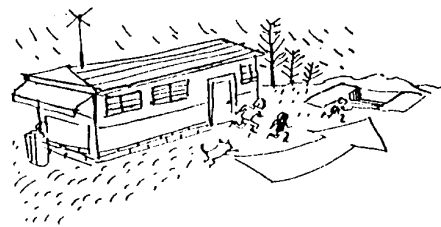
### Multi-Family

- Seek lowest level, central portion
- Small room, closet, or hallway
- Avoid exterior walls and windows
- Protect your head



### Without Basement

- Seek lowest level, central portion
- Small room, closet or hallway
- Avoid exterior walls and windows
- Protect your head



### Mobile Homes

- Evacuation is a must
- Seek shelter in a permanent structure
- If necessary, go to a low spot, such as a ditch or ravine
- Protect your head